

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 271.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 271 is advanced. LB 334.

CLERK: LB 334 was a bill introduced by Senator Landis. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 13, referred to Business and Labor, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, what this bill does is to ask the Department of Labor to gather information about the part-time labor force in this state. It does so by amending the department's agency authority and it lists as one of the ten things that the department can do, this acquisition and distribution of useful information regarding the role of part-time labor in this state. Now, with that simple addition to the law, let me tell you what the social problem is that I'm after. It's clear that in the last 10 years there has been a big change in our labor force. That change in the labor force is certainly to bringing in of many of our women but one of its demographic outcomes, I think, is to take full-time jobs that have benefits, the kind of jobs around which families can be constructed and supported and the breaking up of those jobs into part-time labor, part-time labor that doesn't have benefits to go along with it, no health insurance or life insurance, the kind of jobs that provide temporary assistance certainly, or perhaps a second income in a family but not the kind of jobs around which family priorities and obligations can be ordered. Now there are sources of information about part-time labor. The federal agency does create some information according to its current population survey. On the other hand, that is very limited in its aspect. There is some information that we gather in this state about part-time labor but it, too, is very sporadic. Additionally, Nebraska's portion of what federal statistics there are on part-time labor are quite skewed because we have very few Nebraska participants or survey questionnaire answerers in this state to get a good idea as to whether national information is true for Nebraska. I think that as we plan for the future, as we think about life-long learning, as we think about workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, the creation of state medical plans and the like, we're going to